TL 1377

Facsimile cover sheet

From Carmel Budiardjo, TAPOL the Indonesia Human Rights Campaign
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Date: 12 March 1991 To: Luisa / CDPM

Number of sheets including cover sheet: 3 010 351 1 534009

Message:

Dear Luisa,
A provisional reply to your fax. Liem will be coming on Thursday and we will immediately discuss any ideas about the agenda. I think we will both be coming to Lisbon. I will arrive in Lisbon late on Friday night.

I would suggest that in addition to the Kanaan interview and the 15 years piece, you circulate the interview of the 3 clandestine leaders from the last TAPOL Bulletin.

One point we want to bring up is a public statement of regret about Mandela's visit to Indonesia. Jose Luis Guterres tells me Fretilin is trying to urge him to make a statement in support of E Timor so do not want to publicly criticise him. I said I thought the solidarity groups should go beyond that, and he agreed.

Are there going to be any discussions with Abilio? Guterres is very unhappy about the present state of affairs and talks about a 'crisis'. I'd personally prefer not to spend too much time in discussion with Abilio - I feel we wasted quite a lot of time at the London meeting doing that and not discussing strategy enough.

Re PET mission to New York:
The appointment with Perez de Cuellar is at 10.30 am, Monday 25 March. On Sunday evening, there will be a meeting of members of the mission and a press conference at 1 pm on Monday, then people can leave.

We now have a Japanese MP (not Satsuki Eda or Akiba) and a Dutch MP. The Australian group has refused to participate - at least Laurie Ferguson says so. I'm trying to get Michael's help in convincing a Democrat or an Independent to go. Elaine is working hard to have a Canadian join the mission.

Avebury received a letter from Rafeeuddin Ahmed (copy follows). Avebury is surprised to read that the UN regards the Portuguese as 'the legitimate spokesman' of the East Timorese and is seeking clarification from the Portuguese govt, through the ambassador here. (I am not faxing the Sec Gen's report which you no doubt have.)

Carmel

Our Email eastTimor conference was launched

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REFERENCE:

6 March 1991

Dear Lord Avebury,

Thank you for the letter you addressed to the Secretary-General on 4 February 1991 concerning the question of East Timor. I wish to assure you that the Secretary-General is fully cognizant of your views on this matter, and would be pleased to meet with you and your associates on [illegible] mentioned in Mr. Kavanagh's letter to Mr. Rudiardjo of 1 March.

I would like to take this opportunity to correct a misunderstanding apparent in your letter of 16 August 1990, to which you refer in your most recent letter, regarding the inscription of the question of East Timor on the agenda of the General Assembly. As has been mentioned in our past correspondence, the Assembly is master of its own procedure. In fact, the item has invariably been included in the provisional agenda considered by the General Committee of the Assembly. It is the General Committee of the Assembly, composed of representatives of sovereign States, which has decided on repeated occasions, after due consultation among the membership of the United Nations, to recommend that the General Assembly should defer consideration of the item.

To understand the current status of the talks between Indonesia and Portugal, it is necessary to recall that, prior to the adoption of General Assembly resolution 37/30, the Secretary-General, on his own initiative and in the exercise of his good offices, undertook contacts with Indonesia and Portugal in order to explore avenues for a comprehensive and internationally acceptable solution to the question of

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East Timor. Subsequently, General Assembly resolution 37/30 was adopted but was rejected by Indonesia. Nonetheless, both Indonesia and Portugal continued the dialogue with the Secretary-General. As a result of his efforts, the two Governments agreed to direct talks with each other, under the Secretary-General's auspices, which began formally in November 1984. It must be borne in mind that the pace of progress in any form, procedural or otherwise, and even the continuation of these talks at all, depends ultimately upon the two Governments concerned.

As you may be aware, the talks between Indonesia and Portugal have resulted in the agreement in principle on a visit by a Portuguese Parliamentary delegation to the territory. As the Secretary-General mentioned in his last report to the General Assembly on the matter, he is encouraged by the considerable progress made during the past year in their discussion of the terms of reference and modalities of such a visit. I am enclosing a copy of that report, for your information.

It needs to be reiterated, in this connection, that the United Nations continues to recognize the Government of Portugal as the administering Power of the territory and has never designated any other legitimate spokesman for the East Timorese people. Nonetheless, the United Nations Secretariat has maintained an open door to the East Timorese. In fact, I have, on a number of occasions, met with East Timorese of varied political affiliations, to listen to their views and to brief them on the ongoing talks on East Timor.

I hope that these clarifications have responded to some of the concerns you expressed and I look forward to seeing you again at your meeting with the Secretary-General.

Yours sincerely,

Rafeeuddin Ahmed
Special Representative
of the Secretary-General
for Humanitarian Affairs
in South East Asia